

LAKE TAHOE TMDL 2017 STRATEGY & CURRENT THEMES

The TMDL Strategy provides consistent direction to inform the prioritization of day-to-day activities and communications by Water Board and NDEP TMDL Program Managers.

Long-Term Goal

Guide implementation of cost effective load reduction measures to: reverse clarity loss of Lake Tahoe; achieve 80 feet Clarity Challenge by 2026; and achieve the 100 feet numeric target by 2076.

5-Year Milestone Objectives *(through 2021 updates)*

- Support efforts to secure sustained implementation funding through 2021.
- Ensure the Lake Clarity Crediting Program can be effectively implemented: 1) Estimation and reporting tools prove functional, 2) all urban implementers register pollutant controls, perform inspections and declare credits, and 3) all urban implementers achieve credit targets associated with the 10% load reduction milestone and demonstrate progress toward the 21% load reduction milestone.
- Report TMDL progress for all source categories included in the TMDL implementation plan and discuss progress in the context of lake clarity status.
- Solicit, document and be responsive to input from all stakeholders.

Annual Objectives & Actions *(through 2017 Calendar Year)*

- Continue program implementation emphasis on the urban source category. Urban implementers register pollutant controls and perform initial inspections to demonstrate attainment of 10% and progress toward attainment of the 21% load reduction and associated credit targets.
- Establish updated permits in California for the next five-year milestone.
- Implement full TMDL Management System cycle and work towards carrying out 2016 approved recommendations.
- Explore creating a more concrete linkage between TMDL implementation and anticipated nearshore program activities.
- Work towards establishing a new TMDL Performance Measure to track and report floodplain restoration activities in a manner consistent with TRPA EIP Program reporting efforts.

Current Themes *(External talking points to drive focus and motivate action)*

- Urban load reduction implementation and accounting remains the focus of the Lake Clarity Crediting Program. Crediting for non-urban activities may be considered once all Urban Implementers have successfully registered actions and demonstrated attainment of the 21% load reduction milestone. TMDL Program Managers will explore identification of other partners who might be interested in a lead role for non-urban accounting.
- The initial water year for registration, inspection and award of credits has proved to be the true beta-test of the Crediting Program; the tools and protocols require further refinement to be fully functional.
- Roadways are the largest source and operations and maintenance are cost-effective opportunities to achieve load reductions. Demonstrating reductions from roadways is critical to securing additional funding and lifting grant program restrictions on funding O&M activities.
- All stakeholders will have the ability to provide input to the adaptive management of TMDL implementation. TMDL Program Managers are committed to documenting and being responsive to this input.
- Non-urban source category pollutant load reduction implementation is an important component of the TMDL strategy. The TMDL Program will track and report performance measures and periodically evaluate implementation progress from forests, streams and atmospheric deposition.
- Targeted nearshore research and monitoring will shed light on nearshore processes and determine if and what additional management actions are needed.